PREFACE

The title 'Synonymic Collocations in the Tipitaka: A Study' indicates the subject and outlines the scope of the dissertation. The work attempts to discuss the main aspects of the synonymic clusters in the Tipitaka.

Broadly speaking such synonymic (or semisynonymic, for there scarcely exist exact synonyms in a natural language) expressions can be studied from three different points of view viz. (i) stylistic (ii) semantic and (iii) Lexicographic. In the present work the emphasis is mostly on the first; the second is discussed only in brief and the third is merely indicated en passant.

The whole work is divided into three sections comprising in all nine chapters, not all of equal length. A prefatory note is added to the second section where it is most essential. The first section is Introductory and includes the statement of the problem, the theories - both ancient and modern - of synonymy and the aid of the Pali commentaries and the other exegetical literature in explaining the vevacanas. The second section concerns some peculiar synonymic resources of Pali. The third section is Residual and constitutes only two chapters, one of which discusses the synonymous epithets in the Canon in relation to the early Buddhist mythology and the other states only the formal conclusion of the work.

The scope, the method, and the value of the study have been explained rather unusually at the end of the first chapter which states the problem in full. This comprehensive chapter renders a long preface unnecessary. It is thought more appropriate to explain the method, the scope, and the value
of the study only after the problem was fully unfolded. Hence
their inclusion at the end of the first chapter.

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